

Peter Hurucz
To the people of 2026.

I am a 17-year old student at Boca Ciega High School, in my senior year. Born in an urban town called New Rochelle, New York in 1959, I have a 24-year old sister in Seminole, and I live with my parents in an apartment on St. Pete Beach. I also have a grandmother living in Treasure Island.

My sister is married and works as a clerk in Robinson's at Lyone Square Mall. Her husband is an industrial relocation advisor (helps move industries from the North to the South) and is also a part-time disc jockey on the WLCY radio station. My parents moved to New York from Iran in 1956, to find a job, and then to Florida in 1973 for the same reason.

I work part-time as a dishwasher for \$3.00 an hour. That's rather high, considering the minimum wage to be \$2.30. My subjects at school include grammar, Composition 2, analytic geometry, physics, and Symphonic Band.

My ambition is to become an astronaut. I plan to continue my studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the institution that recently created the first artificial gene.

When I first came to live in Pinellas County in 1973, I found that my family was among thousands that migrated south that year. This migration caused many mistakes to be made by the local government. They built more condominiums than the people bought, so quite a few remained half-built, sticking out like sore thumbs. Other problems include over ten percent unemployment, uncoordinated mass-transportation, and highly segregated neighborhoods. The school board, thinking itself to be liberal, is spending thousands of taxpayers' dollars to bus children miles from their neighborhood to a faraway school, for the purpose of integration. This has caused resentment and racial tension in the schools, and furthermore, they have done little or nothing about the illiteracy growing in these schools.

In a month, the US will have a new President, Jimmy Carter. The people's choice of Carter for President seems to reflect on their own self-centeredness, especially the unemployed. Carter promises to create jobs for these people, apparently hoping that this would result in an improved economy and lower inflation rate. President Ford was more realistic in his campaign, saying that he had taken measures to lower inflation, in turn improving the economy, and thus creating jobs.

The energy crisis, first realized in 1974, is now

Being treated with indifference by the American people. They don't seem to be worried about the energy shortage that might cripple the world worse than in 1974 with the Arab oil embargo.

The Republicans fear that their party is dying, that in eight to ten years it will no longer play any significant part in the government. Right now they make up less than a third of either branch in the Legislature. This can be blamed mostly on the split platform especially in the Republican convention this year when Ford and Reagan were battling for the nomination.

The cost of living is outrageous! A five pound bag of sugar costs a dollar; gas averages sixty cents a gallon; a loaf of bread costs fifty cents. A decent house averages \$49,000; an average car is over \$5000; a TV set costs about \$350.

Since man landed on the moon seven years ago, many technological advances have come about. The new microwave oven allows one to cook a meal in fifteen minutes or less. With a pocket calculator, one's math work is cut in half. Solar panels are only experimental, but their use in Skylab proved that they are practical and the possible answer to the threatening energy shortage.

The sports world has been more exciting than ever. The Mets' Dave Kingman was on his way to breaking Roger Maris' 61-home run record until he got injured. Maybe he'll do it next year. Tom Seaver had another 200 strikeout season, his eighth in a row. In football, Super Bowl '77 looks like it's going to be a real contest. Minnesota and Pittsburgh will be two of

the most evenly matched teams yet. One of the biggest feats in the Olympics was Nadia Comaneci and her perfect scores. Right now, ~~the~~ the three networks, ABC, NBC, and CBS, are battling to get TV rights for the 1980 olympics in Moscow. The major controversy is how much truth the winning network will be allowed to publicize.

Some of the greatest problems the U.S. faces include the arms race with the U.S.S.R. Leonid Brezhnev, however, said he is willing to resume the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks next year. The "domino theory" has now reached Korea. Nobody knows for sure what Jimmy Carter would do if the Communists try to take over South Korea. Tension in the Middle East varies from high to near war. Just recently, the Civil War in Lebanon resulted in victory for the Christian faction. A brand new situation has arisen in Canada: the Quebec separatist movement. The Parti Quebecois says it will consider a vote on secession in about ten years when it gets strong enough.

This era may have its troubles, but I am quite content and wouldn't want to live in any other era.